

REMARKS

Claims remaining in the present patent application are numbered 1-20. Claims 1, 11, and 20 have been amended. No new matter has been added. The rejections and comments of the Examiner set forth in the Office Action dated June 30, 2004 have been carefully considered by the Applicants. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to consider and allow the remaining claims.

Specification

Claim 20 has been objected to because of informalities. Applicants have herein amended Claim 20 to correct the informalities. Specifically, the phrase "to be optically to said" has been corrected as follows: "to be optically coupled to said." Also, the phrase "said first optical detector" has been removed and referenced as "said optical detector" for correct antecedent basis.

35 U.S.C. §102 Rejection

The present Office Action rejected Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Wong et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,062,703). Applicants have reviewed the above cited reference and respectfully submit that the present invention as recited in Claims 1-20, is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by the Wong et al. reference.

Independent Claims 1 and 11

Applicants respectfully point out that independent Claims 1 and 11 each recite that the present invention includes, in part:

generating an optical response from said composite optical system, by mixing a reflection of an input optical signal off said composite optical system and another reflection of said input optical signal off a reference component; (Emphasis Added)

As such, the present invention pertains to a method and system for "measuring optical characteristics of a sub-component within a composite optical system." In particular, independent Claims 1 and 11 recite that an optical response from a composite optical system is generated "by mixing a reflection of an input optical signal off the composite optical system and another reflection of the input optical signal off a reference component." That is, in one part the input optical signal is reflected off a reference component (e.g., a mirror). In another part, the input optical signal is reflected off the composite optical system.

Applicants respectfully note that the prior art reference, Wong et al., does not teach nor suggest the present method for "measuring optical characteristics of a sub-component within a composite optical system" in which the

optical response from the composite optical system is generated "by mixing the reflection of an input optical signal off the composite optical system and the reflection of the input optical signal off a reference component," as claimed in independent Claims 1 and 11 of the present invention.

In contrast to independent Claims 1 and 11 of the present invention, the Wong et al. reference, discloses a method and apparatus for measuring the length of, or distances to discontinuities in an optical transmission medium. In particular, the Wong et al. reference, discloses a lightwave component measurement system that provides modulation measurements and the use of digital signal processing for the resolution of single or multiple optical reflections in optical fiber cable. Location of discontinuities can be determined from an envelope phases shift between incident and reflected optical signals. As such, the Wong et al. reference does not teach or suggest the mixing of two reflected signals. Specifically, the Wong et al. reference does not teach "mixing the reflection of an input optical signal off the composite optical system and the reflection of the input optical signal off a reference component," as recited in independent Claim 1 of the present invention.

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the present invention as disclosed in independent Claims 1 and 11 is not anticipated by the Wong et al. reference, and is in a condition for allowance. In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 2-10 which depend from independent Claim 1 are also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim. Also, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 12-20 which depend from independent Claim 11 are also in a condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments and arguments presented herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected Claims for allowance thereof.

Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-20 overcome the rejections of record. Therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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